

THE LONDON COMPANY
OF VIRGINIA

OF VIRGINIA

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF ITS TRANSACTIONS
IN COLONIZING VIRGINIA

WITH

OF THE MORE PROMINENT LEADERS REPRODUCED
FROM THE COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL PORTRAITS AT
OAKRIDGE, NELSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, SECURED FOR
EXHIBITION AT THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION BY
THOMAS FORTUNE RYAN



NEW YORK AND LONDON
1908

F220.
V92

THIS COPY IS ONE OF AN EDITION
OF THREE HUNDRED COPIES
PRINTED FROM TYPE BY



No. 17

CH

THE DE VILLIE PRESS

17 178



INTRODUCTION

THE Jamestown Exposition of 1907 was in commemoration of the Tercentenary of the first permanent settlement of English-speaking people on the Continent of America. The most potent factor in the promotion of that settlement was the London Company, and it seemed, therefore, appropriate that in the celebration of an event of such historic significance a most honorable place should be given to those who were prominently identified with the movement which resulted in giving to America the greatest and freest government in the world.

The question as to how this could best be done was not easily answered. I was Governor of the Division of History, Education and Social Economy at the Jamestown Exposition. I consulted with my able and learned associate, Dr. J. A. C. Chandler, Director of the Division, and the result was a determination to secure portraits of some of those who had been most influential in shaping the policy of the London Company of Virginia. There was no such collection either in England or this country, and in making one there were many difficulties to be overcome. The original portraits were to be found in many different places: Some were owned by the English Government, others were part of great public galleries, and still others were in private collections. The privilege of copying these had to be obtained from their several owners, and when this

INTRODUCTION

was finally done, I found myself confronted with a still more difficult problem. The Exposition Company had no money to appropriate for such a purpose. The State of Virginia would doubtless have made an appropriation such as was necessary, but her General Assembly was not in session and there was no one authorized to act for her. To undertake to secure the sum desired by application to many contributors was impracticable; so I turned to my honored friend, Mr. Thomas Fortune Ryan, whose devotion to the Old Dominion was never more beautifully illustrated than in the prompt and generous manner with which he responded to my request and authorized me to secure, without regard to cost, the collection which was known as the "Thomas F. Ryan Historical Collection," and was universally regarded as one of the most beautiful and attractive features of the History Building at the Jamestown Exposition. The charm of it all was the delightful manner in which Mr. Ryan received the suggestion, saying as he gave me the order to secure the paintings, "I am never happier than when I am doing something to make whatever Virginia undertakes appear more beautiful and attractive to the world."

This valuable historic collection now occupies a conspicuous place in the art gallery of "Oakridge," the magnificent country residence of Mr. Ryan, in Nelson County, Virginia.

This volume contains a short history of the London Company of Virginia, photogravures of each of the portraits and brief biographies, and it is printed by Mr. Ryan for private circulation among his friends who may not have the privilege of seeing the originals, but who will thus be enabled in some measure to enjoy with him this beautiful and valuable collection, which his love for Virginia first prompted him to gather, and which he preserves as a reminder of one of the most historic of Expositions ever held in America.

J. TAYLOR ELLYSON.

May 20, 1908.



THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

THE beginnings of permanent English colonization in America form perhaps the most interesting chapter in the history of the early part of the seventeenth century. The germs of English colonial ambitions are to be traced as far back as the first explorations of the Cabots, who immediately after the discovery of western lands by Columbus explored the coast of North America from Labrador as far south probably as Florida. For seventy-five years England made no attempt at settlement. Finally, however, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, during that wonderful period of English enterprise following upon the religious wars on the continent, interest in discoveries was again awakened and with it came experiments in colonization. In 1583 the first English settlement was made on the coast of Newfoundland by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a half brother of Sir Walter Raleigh. Dissensions soon broke

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

out among Gilbert's adventurers and the colony was abandoned. On the return voyage Gilbert himself was lost in a severe storm which wrecked the tiny craft in which he was sailing.

His enterprising spirit had its influence upon Sir Walter Raleigh. He immediately secured letters patent from Queen Elizabeth, and in 1584 sent out two ships under Captains Barlow and Amadas to select in advance a site for the colony. They explored the present coast of North Carolina and returned to England with glowing accounts of the new world. In honor of herself, the "Virgin Queen," Elizabeth named all of the territory claimed by England "Virginia."

It appears that under the patronage of the Queen, Raleigh had no difficulty in securing adventurers for his daring undertaking, and in 1585, a fleet under the command of Richard Grenville carried a colony to Roanoke Island.

Among the colonists were John White, an English artist, and Thomas Hariot, a mathematician, both of whom were clients of Sir Walter Raleigh. Hariot wrote an account of his observations, which was the first book ever published on Virginia. White made a series of water-color sketches showing the manners and customs of the Indians.

After a year's existence the colony was visited by Sir Francis Drake, a gentleman pirate, the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. At the earnest solicitation of the colonists they were taken back to England by Drake's fleet.

It was from Roanoke that the English first secured tobacco and the white potato. Everybody knows the old stories of how Raleigh weighed the smoke for Queen Elizabeth and of how his man-servant, coming upon him one day while he was enjoying his pipe, dashed a mug of ale

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

in his face, thinking that his master was on fire. The potato was taken by Raleigh and sent to his estate in Ireland. It was soon found to be one of the most valuable products that could be raised on the Emerald Isle, and became the staple food of the Irish people, hence its name "Irish Potato."

Though the first attempt at settlement by Raleigh was a failure, he was not discouraged. The following year he sent, under the direction of John White, a body of one hundred settlers. Returning to Roanoke Island they restored the ruined huts which had been abandoned the previous year. Raleigh had instructed the colonists to enter the Chesapeake Bay and settle near the present site of Norfolk, which had been visited by White and Hariot in their explorations. The pilot, however, steered his boat in the wrong direction and carried the settlers back to Roanoke.

White soon returned to England for supplies. But in the meantime England was about to go to war with Spain, and the whole attention of the nation was engrossed in preparations to repel the invasion by the Spanish Armada. White was therefore unable to return immediately to the colony. When he finally reached Roanoke, three years later, he found that the settlement had been abandoned by the eighty-nine men, seventeen women, and eleven children whom he had left. On leaving he had instructed the colonists that in case they were forced to give up Roanoke Island they should carve upon some conspicuous object the name of the place to which they removed. It was further agreed that if they had gone away in distress that a cross would be carved above the name of the place. Search of the devastated settlement revealed on a tree within the fort the word "Croatan" carved without a cross above it, indicating, according to the agreement, that they had not been

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

driven away in distress. Five different expeditions were sent out in search of the unfortunate colonists, but nothing was ever learned of their fate. This was the last time that Raleigh made an attempt directly to establish a colony in America.

The State of North Carolina has remembered Raleigh's connection with that part of Virginia out of which it has been formed, and has named its capital after the father of American colonization—Raleigh. Moreover, his attempt to fix a settlement is marked by a monument on Roanoke Island which bears the following inscription:

On this site in July–August 1585 (O.S.), colonists, sent out from England by Sir Walter Raleigh, built a fort, called by them “The New Fort in Virginia.”

These colonists were the first settlers of the English race in America. They returned to England in July 1586, with Sir Francis Drake.

Near this place was born, on the 18th of August, 1587, Virginia Dare, the first child of English parents born in America—daughter of Ananias Dare and Eleanor White, his wife, members of another band of colonists, sent out by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1587.

On Sunday, August 20, 1587, Virginia Dare was baptized. Manteo, the friendly chief of the Hatteras Indians, had been baptized on the Sunday preceding. These baptisms are the first known celebrations of a Christian sacrament in the territory of the thirteen original United States.

The colonial attempts of Gilbert and Raleigh are memorable by reason of the fact that they were the first efforts on the part of the Eng-

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

lish to establish colonies in any part of the world. These efforts resulted from two causes: first, a desire on the part of the English people to extend their commercial enterprises, and second, a desire on the part of Sir Walter Raleigh to prevent further colonization of North America by the Spaniards. To Raleigh the Spanish power was despicable. He was a bitter opponent, therefore, of any policy which looked toward an extension of Spanish possessions. He had great visions of a British colonial empire that would overshadow the Spanish colonial dominion. The time was not ripe for the success of his scheme, but with the evolution of the years came the realization of Raleigh's dream. The English colonial empire is to-day the greatest that the world has ever known, while the Spaniards have finally lost their entire colonial possessions as a result of the Spanish-American War.

The year 1606 marked a change from the system of private attempts at colonization to that of corporate efforts. During the several years previous to this date a number of private voyages of discovery were indeed sent out, but no substantial progress was made in the direction of establishing a permanent colony on the American shore. It was a desire for commercial profits which led corporate enterprises to undertake the establishment of trade colonies in the New World. All of these enterprises, both private and corporate, were undertaken under the patronage of the government, and it was the function of the government to legalize them. It was left, however, to the individuals or companies that proposed to plant the colonies, to promote and finance their schemes of colonization. And it was out of this union of governmental and private interests in active coöperation that proprietary colonies arose in America.

With the failure of Raleigh's attempts at colonization, it became

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

apparent to those in England who had their eyes turned toward the possibilities of rich rewards in the New World, that a strong corporation might succeed in accomplishing what individuals had failed to bring about. Bartholomew Gosnold, who, in 1602, had made a voyage to America, was perhaps the prime mover of the establishment of the first permanent settlement in Virginia, just as Captain John Smith, after the planting of the colony, was perhaps its leading spirit. It was Gosnold who succeeded in arousing interest among certain of the nobility and gentry in England, and he, himself, together with Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George Somers, two courageous knights, Robert Hunt, a clergyman, Richard Hakluyt, prebendary of Westminster, Edward Maria Wingfield, a London merchant, and John Smith, a soldier of fortune, became the nucleus of an organization which ultimately developed into a mammoth colonial trading company. King James I, who had succeeded Elizabeth in 1603, lent his sanction to the undertaking, and in 1606 issued a charter to the body of patentees. In their colonial enterprises Gilbert and Raleigh had indeed formed associations for the accomplishment of their schemes, and Raleigh, who himself never made the voyage to Virginia, yielded to his association most of the powers and concessions contained in his letters patent from the Queen. The difference, however, between these organizations and that effected by the charter of 1606 was first, that the Virginia Company as a corporation owed its existence directly to the crown, and secondly, it operated under many more restrictions as to governmental and territorial powers, as well as in regard to the monopoly of trade, than were applied to the royal grants of the sixteenth century. Raleigh, for instance, could grant land in fee simple at will, but under the first Virginia charter land was granted by the King to those who were approved by the Council.

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

The formation of the London or Virginia Company was not without its prototypes in the previous history of English commerce. In its commercial spirit it was closely akin to the private feudal grants of Elizabeth during the sixteenth century, and in its organization it followed closely the private trade companies dating as far back as the early part of the fifteenth century. Especially, however, did the charter of the British East India Company, issued by Queen Elizabeth in 1600, serve as a pattern for the charters issued by King James I. The East India Company, consisting of more than 125 members and enjoying an absolute monopoly of trade and almost unlimited governmental powers within its geographical boundaries, became the most stupendous colonial trading company that the world has ever known, maintaining its existence for more than two centuries and a half.

By the terms of the charter given under the seal of James I on the tenth of April, 1606, authority was given for the establishment of two colonies in Virginia, the name applied at that time to the whole of the vast area claimed by England in the New World. The Southern Colony was to be planted by the London Company with its northern boundary reaching as far as the mouth of the Hudson River; the Northern Colony was intrusted to the Plymouth Company with its southern boundary marked by the Potomac River. The possession of the territory included between the Hudson and the Potomac, which was assigned to both companies, was to be determined by priority of settlement, the charter providing that neither company might establish a settlement within one hundred miles of a colony previously planted by the other. The names of the companies soon fell into disuse; and the territory of the Southern Colony became known as Virginia, while that of the Northern Colony was called New England.

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

It was the Plymouth Company which made the first effort to fix a colony under the charter which had been granted in the names of Raleigh Gilbert, William Parker, Thomas Hanham, and George Popham. In May, 1606, a band of settlers was started on its westward journey. They established themselves near the mouth of the Kennebec River, but the privations of the bitter winter and the death of some of their leading spirits proved too great for their endurance. When in the spring a supply ship arrived from home, they determined to abandon their miserable settlement, and the whole company reëmbarked for England. Thus the first and only serious attempt of the Plymouth Company to establish a colony ended in failure.

The London Company had been intrusted, under the terms of the charter, to Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers, Richard Hakluyt, and Edward Maria Wingfield. By December, 1606, three small ships, the *Susan Constant*, the *Godspeed*, and the *Discovery*, had been put in readiness for the journey, and a company of more than one hundred settlers set sail on the voyage which was to result in the first permanent settlement on the shores of America.

Among the adventurers who set out in this company were men from every rank of life. Unfortunately perhaps for the new settlement, more than half of the whole number were "gentlemen," while carpenters and laborers were in a distressing minority. It was the original intention of the settlers to establish a colony on the site of Raleigh's settlement at Roanoke Island, but a violent storm drove the ships into the Chesapeake Bay. There the storm abated, and because of the shelter and comfort which the harbor afforded after the recent dangers of the sea, they called the place on the western shore of the bay to which their vessels were directed, Point Comfort. From the present

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

site of Hampton they proceeded by boat up the river which, in honor of the King, they called the "James." About forty miles from the mouth of the river they chose, on May 13, 1607, a site for the establishment of their colony; Jamestown they called it, and a miserable location it proved to be, a low peninsula more than half of which was covered by water at high tide. With energy and enthusiasm they set about felling trees and building temporary huts. Before the summer was over there appeared upon the banks of this river in the wilderness of Virginia something that approximated a civilized community. The first charter granted to the London Company made the government of the colony distinctly a creature of the Crown. The affairs of the Company under the terms of the charter were to be managed by a Council appointed by the King and responsible to him. A subordinate Council was to be appointed in the colony by the superior Council in London. The settlers were, however, granted about the same degree of civil liberty which was then enjoyed by Englishmen at home. Trial by jury was secured to all persons charged of crime. Only a few offenses were made subject to capital punishment, and it was provided that the colonial Council should try all civil causes. The communistic or co-operative idea took the form of a provision by which all products of the colony for a period of five years were to be brought to a public storehouse where a treasurer, or Cape Merchant as the officer was called, was given the power to apportion them in accordance with the necessities of the individual members of the community. The Church of England was made the established church of the colony. It is evident that under this first charter the colonists of the London Company enjoyed no very generous degree of civil liberty, for their local government was strictly subordinated to the control of the King through his

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

Council in London. It was indeed only a modification of this form of government which was reinstated when the London Company was dissolved in 1624. With the exception of John Smith and Bartholomew Gosnold, the members of the Virginia Council proved to be utterly lacking in the capacity for leadership which was necessary to put the infant colony upon a self-supporting basis. The promise for the future was not auspicious. Gosnold soon died, and Smith, being under arrest because of a jealousy of his ability and influence, was, in consequence, excluded from the debates of the Council. In the meantime famine and sickness descended upon the settlement and swept off about half of the colonists while factious elements within the Council made it almost impossible adequately to provide for the community the bare necessities of life.

In the winter of 1607 Smith, having been vindicated of the charges against him, made the voyage up the Chickahominy River and was captured by the Indians. It was at this time, as the story goes, that he was saved from death by the intervention of Pocahontas, then a girl of twelve or thirteen years of age, and the favorite daughter of King Powhatan. Within a few days after his rescue Smith was permitted to return to Jamestown, and it was largely due to his influence and to that of the youthful Pocahontas, that more or less amicable relations were established between the white settlers and the tribes of Indians which threatened the destruction of Jamestown.

For two years, under the strong hand of this soldier-ruler, the colony fought for its existence against the overwhelming odds of starvation, illness, and threatened attacks of the Indians, but in the meantime the London Company succeeded in getting new concessions from the King which largely increased its direct powers over the affairs of the colony.

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

In 1609 a second charter drawn by Sir Edwin Sandys was given to the Company by King James, and under it the colony became more distinctly proprietary in its character. The governmental functions of the King were now taken over by the Company, while it retained in addition the financial and commercial responsibilities of the undertaking. The great corporation under the new charter consisted of no less than 659 of the most distinguished noblemen, knights, and gentlemen of England, as well as some fifty-six companies of London. The most significant feature of this second charter was the provision that the Council in London should be chosen by the Company itself and not appointed by the King as the original charter had prescribed. Sir Thomas West, Lord Delaware, was made the Governor and Captain-General of Virginia, Sir Thomas Gates the Lieutenant-Governor, and Sir George Somers the Admiral, under the new charter. The geographical boundaries of Virginia were also changed by the provisions that the limit of the colony should extend two hundred miles south, and two hundred miles north of the mouth of the James River, and west and northwest from sea to sea.

Among the English gentlemen who embarked with Gates and Somers in the ship *Sea-Venture* was Master John Rolfe, who, several years later, having become enamoured of the Princess Pocahontas, married her and took her with him back to England. There Pocahontas became the fashion of the day. She was lionized and courted and favored by the ladies and courtiers of London society. Lady Delaware, the wife of the first Governor of Virginia, presented her at court where she was graciously received by the King and his consort, Queen Anne. The sensation which was created by the visit of Pocahontas to London was not without its effect upon the Virginia colony. New

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

interest was awakened in this land beyond the seas which seemed to be personified in the graceful simplicity of the Indian maiden Pocahontas.

In 1612 a third charter was granted to the Virginia Company in order that the Bermudas, where ambergris had been recently discovered, might be included in the territory of the colony. But the charter contained far more important provisions than the accession of the Bermudas. All the privileges of the charter of 1609 were reaffirmed and Virginia was no longer to be governed by a Council sitting in London. Authority was given to the members of the Company to sit once a week instead of at long intervals, or as often as they chose, and to hold four general courts every year for the consideration of the affairs of the Company. It was a dangerous move on the part of the King, for the new charter in reality created a democratic assembly where free discussion might place the royal prerogative in jeopardy, and this was exactly what happened. It must be remembered that King James, with insolent stubbornness, claimed to rule by divine right. In his own eyes his powers were superior both to Parliament and to the laws of the realm. The result was that a fierce struggle for power arose between the King and Parliament—a conflict which, continuing throughout the reign of King James and being taken up by his son, Charles I, finally culminated in civil war. Many of the members of the London Company during this period were also members of Parliament, and, as a rule, at the quarterly sessions of the London Company these members constituted from one third to one half of those present. The result was that the questions at issue between the King and Parliament were carried into the meetings of the London Company for discussion. By 1619 there was a segregation of parties within the Company on the question of royal and parliamentary powers. One element of the Company was

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

friendly to the King and desired to see his wishes in regard to the colony of Virginia carried out. The other element of the Company, standing for liberalism in government as opposed to the despotism of the royal prerogative, sought to defeat the purposes of the King in the London Company, even though they were unable to thwart his designs in Parliament. Sir Thomas Smythe, the president and treasurer of the London Company, was a friend of the King. His plans for the management of the Company were in reality dictated by the King, and in every quarterly session of the Company he had as the advocates of his measures the strong support of Robert Rich (Earl of Warwick), Sir Nathan Rich, Sir Henry Mildmay, and others. Most of the faction led by Smythe were merchants and they brought to their discussions the practical ideas of business men. Opposed to them was a faction led by Henry Wriothesley, third earl of Southampton, ably supported by Sir Edwin Sandys and his brother, George Sandys; the Ferrars, Nicholas and John; Lord Sackville, fourth earl of Dorset, and William Cavendish, first earl of Devonshire. This element of the Company was composed largely of lords, gentlemen, and knights. In 1619 the liberal element, in control, elected Sir Edwin Sandys as president and treasurer of the Company.

When, in 1620, the question arose as to who should be elected treasurer of the Company, the Southampton faction proposed that Sir Edwin Sandys should be continued in the office. The King was incensed. He sent word to the London Company to choose the devil, but not Sir Edwin; whereupon, the liberal faction withdrew the name of Sandys and nominated the Earl of Southampton. To the King, Southampton's election was even more obnoxious than that of Sir Edwin Sandys would have been. From this time on, the London Company did not enjoy the sup-

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

port of the King, and he watched every opportunity to revoke its charter. Under the management of Southampton,—a management which was really directed by Sir Edwin Sandys,—the Virginia colony prospered. Sir George Yeardley, who had been appointed Governor for the first time in 1616, was returned to Virginia three years later. He proved an ideal man, allying himself with the liberal faction and lending his encouragement to the cultivation of tobacco, the transportation of young women to the colony in order that permanent homes might be built, the introduction of herds of cattle, and many other improvements that would contribute to the permanent growth and general economic development of the colony. In two years the population of Virginia had trebled.

When in 1619 Sir George Yeardley returned to Virginia as Governor-General of the colony, he was given by the Company authority to call together a general assembly elected by the inhabitants of the colony. On July 30, 1619, the first legislative body that ever sat in America came together at Jamestown. The spirit of the assembly is perhaps well portrayed in the petition to the Company requesting that the Virginia Assembly be permitted to disallow orders of the Company in court, in view of the fact that His Majesty had given the Company power to disallow laws of the Virginia Assembly. For the most part, however, the Assembly undertook to handle questions only of local significance.

Under this liberal government it was then proposed to establish schools in Virginia, and the Reverend Patrick Copeland gave money for this purpose. His scheme was strongly supported by the Ferrars and the Sandyses. As early as 1618 a college was authorized for Virginia, and the legislative assembly of 1619 passed a law relative to the construction of the college building. In 1620 George Thorpe came over

THE LONDON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA

as superintendent of the college lands, and in 1622 Reverend Patrick Copeland was persuaded to accept the position of rector. But during the terrible massacre of 1622 the college property was destroyed, and Copeland, Virginia's first college advocate, never came to take up his duties as rector.

In the spring of 1623 the King sent commissioners to Virginia to report on the state of the colony. Their report was adverse. The commissioners represented that all the ills of the colony resulted from gross mismanagement under popular government. By *quo warranto* proceedings, therefore, before Chief Justice Ley, the charter of the Company was dissolved in 1624. The records of the Company from 1619 to 1624 have been preserved through the instrumentality of Nicholas Ferrar, the Younger, who, according to some accounts, had the copies made by an expert.

Virginia now became a royal province, but the good work which had been begun by the London Company could not be undone. Fortunately for Virginia, James died about a year after the dissolution of the Company and was succeeded by his son, Charles I. It had been James's purpose to take away from the colony some of the freedom in governmental affairs which had been enjoyed under the London Company; but the Assembly of Virginia sent a delegation to England, who, by granting to Charles certain duties on tobacco from the colony, succeeded in retaining a liberal form of government for the Virginia colony. Thus the most abiding influence of the London Company resulting from the settlement of Virginia — popular government — was left a living germ from which has developed our republican form of government.

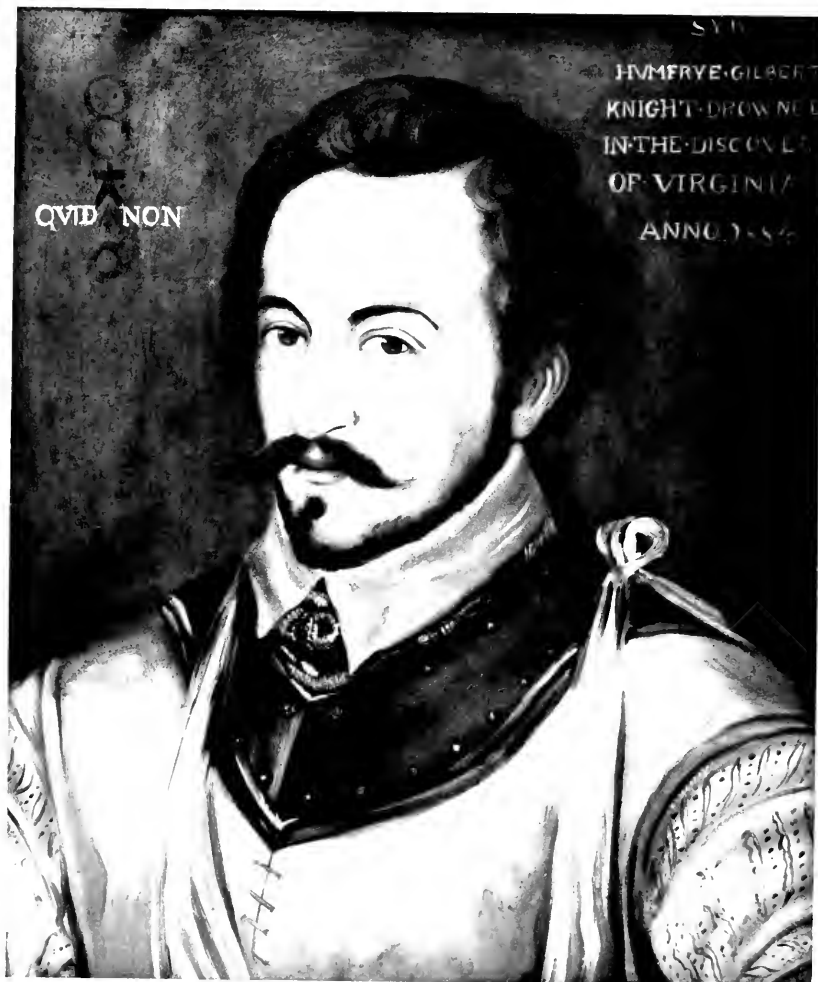
PHOTOGRAVURES

QUEEN ELIZABETH, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, was born in 1533 and by an act of Parliament in 1544 was placed in the direct line for succession to the throne after Edward and Mary. Mary died in November, 1558, and Elizabeth ascended the throne as a Protestant Queen. The early years of her reign were marked by dangerous continental complications, but her intellectual grasp of European politics was perhaps far in advance of any of her advisers. The reign of Elizabeth was one of prosperity in England—a prosperity which showed itself especially in the adventurous undertakings of explorers and discoverers who, under the patronage of the Queen, traversed the seas between Europe and America in search of the supposed Northwest Passage to the east or to find stores of gold and precious metals in unknown lands. The voyages of Raleigh and Gilbert were both undertaken under the encouragement given by Elizabeth, and to her the name Virginia owes its origin. She died in 1603, after a reign of more than forty years, in which she had met and successfully overcome many formidable difficulties. Without being herself a blameless type of womanhood she had exhibited a strength of character and a political foresight which is uncommon in women sovereigns. Cromwell it was who said of her: “Queen Elizabeth of famous memory; we need not be ashamed to call her so!”



Queen Elizabeth
from the painting by Nicholas Zuccaro

SIR HUMPHREY GILBERT, son of Otto Gilbert, was born at Devon in 1539. Although educated at Eton and Oxford, his natural inclination was for the sea. He, therefore, studied navigation and the art of war. In 1566 he petitioned the Queen for the privilege of making discoveries in the northwest. He served in the wars in Ireland under Sir Henry Sidney between 1566 and 1569, where he was knighted for bravery in 1570. The next year he became a member of Parliament for Plymouth. He wrote a "Discourse of a Discovery for the new Pagge to Cataia." He became interested in Frobisher's voyages, and in 1578 he obtained letters patent from the Queen for establishing a colony in America. After one attempt, in which he failed, he finally landed at Newfoundland in 1583, and explored the coast as far south probably as Florida. In the same year he was lost at sea.



Sir Humphrey Gilbert

SIR WALTER RALEIGH, born in Devon, England, in 1552, was educated at Oxford. He took part in the religious wars on the continent between 1569 and 1578. Returning to England, he became interested in the colonial undertakings of his half brother, Sir Humphrey Gilbert. With Gilbert he set sail for America, but the expedition had to be abandoned. In 1580 he was engaged in putting down the revolt in Ireland. He became a favorite with Queen Elizabeth, and in 1582, through her influence, he furnished a ship for Gilbert's voyage to America. In 1584 he himself received letters patent from the Queen for the establishment of a colony in America. In the same year he became a member of Parliament and a year later was knighted at Greenwich. It was under his letters patent that he made two attempts to plant a colony on Roanoke Island. In 1589 he transferred the grants which he held from the Queen to Thomas Smythe and others. He fought against the Spanish Armada and otherwise served in the army of Queen Elizabeth. A few years later he made a voyage to Guiana and on his return published an account of it. During most of these years he served as a member of Parliament for different places in England. In 1603 he was tried and convicted on the charge of being implicated in the Main conspiracy. For more than twelve years he remained confined in the Tower of London. In 1617 he sailed again for Guiana, where he made an attack on the Spaniards. On his return to England a year later he was arrested, tried, and beheaded. He was buried at St. Margaret's, Westminster.



*Sir Walter Raleigh,
after the painting by Federico Zuccaro*

SIR RICHARD GRENVILLE (Granville) was born in 1540. Early in his life he fought against the Turks in the Hungarian army and attained eminent distinction for his services. He became a member of Parliament in 1571, and a few years later began to manifest interest in the new discoveries which were being agitated. He lent his assistance to the expeditions of Amadas and Barlow in 1584, and himself conducted the first colony to Virginia in 1585. He returned to England the next year to secure supplies for the settlement on Roanoke Island. In 1588 he engaged in the fight against the Spanish Armada, and two years later, during the war with Spain, he was killed in a desperate battle waged against the Spanish Plate fleet.



Sir Richard Grenville

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE was probably the son of Robert Drake of Otterton. He was born somewhere between 1538 and 1546. At an early date he went to sea, making frequent voyages to various parts of the world, especially to the West Indies. In 1573 he took service under the Earl of Essex in Ireland. Between 1577 and 1580 he made the first voyage of an Englishman around the world, for which he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. It was Drake who, in 1586, took back to England in his fleet the half-perished colonists at Roanoke Island. He fought against the Spanish Armada in 1588 and in the Portugal expedition a year later. He died in 1596 near Porto Bello while on his last voyage to the West Indies, and was buried in the Gulf of Mexico. Drake, like most of the discoverers and sea-rovers of his day, was a pirate, but he seems to have been a man of not only dashing courage but of some fine parts.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

From the original in
The Trinity House, London.



*Sir Francis Drake
as he appeared in the Trinity House, London.*

KING JAMES I of England was born in Edinburgh in 1566 and a year later succeeded his mother, Mary Queen of Scots, to the throne of Scotland as James VI. Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603, he was proclaimed King of England, taking the title of James I. He was a man of some ability, but his reign was overshadowed by the one dominating idea of his mind that he reigned by divine will. He seems to have had a generous love for his country, and, in spite of the censure of American historians, he was certainly the friend of his American colonies. The colonial ambitions of the English people were fostered by him and a beginning was made during the period of his rule in that movement which has scattered the civilization of the English-speaking people to every part of the globe. He has been condemned for having advocated the appointment of merchants to the official positions in the London Company, as well as for the character of the men whom he recommended and sought to have installed in those positions. His judgment, however, was probably better than that of those who censured him, and his friendly feeling and generous interest in the affairs of the colony are shown by the personal activity which he manifested in the proceedings of the London Company. King James I is remembered throughout the English-speaking world by the authorized or King James translation of the Bible. He was responsible for the Hampton Court conference which accomplished this translation. He died March 27, 1625, and is buried in Westminster Abbey.



King James I
from the painting by Paul Van Somer

QUEEN ANNE, the consort of James I of England, was the daughter of Frederick II, King of Denmark. She married James in 1589, before he became King of England. Queen Anne manifested a deep interest in everything that concerned the Virginia colony, and her reception to Pocahontas in London gave a distinct impetus to the general interest in American affairs. Rappahannock River was at one time called for her the Anne River, and Cape Ann in Massachusetts is also named in her honor. She died in 1619.



*Queen Anne of Denmark
from the painting by Paul Van Somer*

JOHN SMITH was born at Willoughby in 1579, of poor parents. Unfortunately, most of the accounts of his life are based on his own writings. It seems probable that from 1599 on, Smith led a roving and adventurous life which carried him all over Europe. It is not known exactly when Captain Smith returned to England, but he tells us that he became interested in the Virginia undertaking two years before the first colony set out under the London Company in 1606. From February to June, 1607, he was held as a prisoner, but after that time he was admitted to the Virginia Council, and became at once active in the affairs of the colony. In the winter of 1607-'08, he was captured by the Indians, but after a short captivity was permitted to return to Jamestown. By the summer of 1608, Smith and Scrivener succeeded in deposing the only other member of the Virginia Council, and Smith became its president, in which office he remained for about a year. In September of 1609, Smith was severely wounded by the explosion of a bag of gunpowder, and returned to England. Five years later he made a voyage to the New England coast. Captain Smith wrote a number of works relating to America. Smith died in 1631, and was buried in St. Sepulchre's Church, London.



Captain John Smith.

ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH, located at the west end of Newgate Street, was built in the 15th century. The body of the church, however, was burned during the great fire of 1666. It has several times been repaired and restored, and in 1878-1880, the entire body of the church was restored under Mr. Robert Billing, architect. The church is Gothic throughout. Among the prominent persons buried in St. Sepulchre's are Roger Ascham and Captain John Smith. The latter was buried "on the south side of the Quire" where a "table" was hung containing an inscription very suitable to his character. This table was destroyed but within recent years has been replaced by his admirers.



*St. Sepulchre's Church, Holborn Viaduct, London
(the burial place of Captain John Smith)*

POCAHONTAS, whose real name was probably Matoaka, was born in Virginia about 1596. She was the favorite daughter of Powhatan, the "Emperor of the Indians in Virginia." According to Captain Smith's accounts, not only did she save his life more than once, but it was due largely to her influence that friendly intercourse was established with the Indians in the neighborhood of Jamestown and the settlement itself preserved from destruction. In 1613 she was taken prisoner by Captain Argall, and was held as a hostage at Jamestown for several months. Soon afterward she married John Rolfe, an English gentleman who came to Jamestown in company with Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George Somers. In 1616 Rolfe and Pocahontas sailed for England with Sir Thomas Dale. She immediately became the fashion of the hour, was winned and dined and courted in the social life of London. She was presented at court, and was entertained by the Bishop of London as the first convert to the English Church in Virginia. A year later, as she was about to set sail for her native country, she died at Gravesend, leaving one son, Thomas Rolfe, from whom are descended many prominent Virginians. She was buried in St. George's Church, Gravesend.



Princess Pocahontas

THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, at Gravesend, is remembered by all Americans familiar with Virginia history. It is visited annually by many Americans who read in the register of the church this entry: "Rebecca Wrolfe, wyffe of Thos. Wrolfe, gent, a Virginia lady born, was buried in ye chauncel." Thus the parish death register records the burial of Pocahontas, alias Matoaka, baptized at Jamestown as Rebecca. Some Americans proposed that a memorial be erected at Gravesend to Pocahontas, but, for some cause or other, the plan was never carried through. Of late years, however, a rector of the church placed a marble there to the "Virginia lady born" with a brief account of her services in saving the first Virginia colony.



*St. George's Church, Gravesend, Kent
(the burial place of Thomas Becket)*

SIR GEORGE SOMERS was born of respectable parentage in 1554. In 1595 he began his career on the sea. A year later he made a voyage to the West Indies, and in July, 1603, he was knighted. He became a member of Parliament, but his seat was declared vacant by reason of his absence in Virginia. In 1609 he set sail for Virginia as Admiral under the new charter which had been granted by King James, but his vessel was wrecked on the Bermuda Islands and he did not arrive in Virginia until May, 1610. He found the colony on the point of starvation, and therefore advised the abandonment of Jamestown. The settlers had actually set sail for England with Somers, but returned after one night's absence on learning that Lord Delaware had just entered the mouth of James River. A little later Somers returned to the Bermudas to secure supplies for the Virginia colony, and there, in November, 1610, he died. His body was carried back to England and interred at Whitchurch in Dorsetshire.



Sir George Somers.

SIR THOMAS SMYTHE was born about 1558 and received his education at Oxford. He became a prominent man of affairs at a very early age, and it is difficult in the annals of the times to distinguish his acts from those of his father, who bore the same name. He is probably, however, the same Smythe to whom, among others, Raleigh in 1589 assigned his interest in the lands of Virginia. He was one of the incorporators and the first Governor of the East India Company in 1600, and was elected Sheriff of London the same year. He was knighted by King James in 1603, and a year later was sent to Russia as a special ambassador. He was a member of the first Council for Virginia in 1606, continuing as a Councillor for the Virginia Company in 1609. His interest in the Virginia enterprise was manifested by the liberality of his gifts toward the undertaking, and it was upon him very largely that its success or failure rested during the period of its darkest outlook. In 1610 he joined a number of others in sending Henry Hudson to discover the Northwest Passage, and a year later he became one of the incorporators and the first Governor of the Northwest Passage Company. For years he continued to take a prominent part in sending out voyages of discovery to Greenland and other points of the globe. In 1614 he stood solidly in Parliament for the interests of the Virginia and East India Companies. Again and again he was elected Governor of the East India Company in spite of his desire to retire. When, in 1619, he declined to become a candidate for the treasurer of the Virginia Company, there were three distinct factions within the Company, one under the leadership of Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, the second consisting chiefly of merchants under the leadership of Sir Thomas Smythe himself, and the third under Sir Edwin Sandys. The first and third parties, having determined to unite against the candidates of the Smythe faction, succeeded in electing Sir Edwin Sandys to the treasurership. In 1620 Smythe was recommended by James I to be elected treasurer of the Virginia Company. Though the Earl of Warwick personally came over to Smythe's support, the Earl of Southampton, was chosen treasurer of the Company. Smythe had been in bad health for many years, but he continued to manifest his interest in the affairs of the Virginia Company. As the factions grew more violent, however, he began to see the necessity for a dissolution of the Company. When King James dissolved the Company by a writ of *quo warranto*, issued by Chief Justice Ley, Sir Thomas Smythe became a member of the Royal Commission for Virginia affairs, and in this office he continued until he died at Tunbridge in 1625.



Sir Thomas Smythe
from the painting in the Stowood Hall, London

ROBERT RICH, 2nd Earl of Warwick, was born in 1587. In 1614 he became member of Parliament, and two years later he joined with a number of others in sending out ships to take Spanish prizes. These ships coming in contact with the fleet of the East India Company, there arose an acrimonious controversy between Rich and the members of that company, and the charter for which he had applied granting him a monopoly of trade in Guinea and Binney was for some time withheld. His father died in 1619, a year after he had been made Earl of Warwick, and Robert Rich succeeded to the title. The same year he became a member of the King's Council for the Virginia Company. He lent his influence to the Sandys party in their effort to control the affairs of the Virginia Company, and later he became the leader of the party opposed to the Earl of Southampton. After the Virginia Company was dissolved in 1624, he became a member of the Council in England for Virginia affairs. Between 1627 and 1654 he was almost continuously Governor of the Bermudas Company. He was president also of the New England Council. Warwick River, now Warwick County, Virginia, was named in honor of him. In 1643 he was chosen by Parliament to be Governor of all the islands and plantations belonging to any of His Majesty's subjects in America. Five years later he was made Lord High Admiral by Parliament. During the Revolution he took sides with Cromwell. In 1658 he died.



*Robert Rich
(Second Earl of Warwick)
after the painting by Van Dyck*

HENRY WRIOTHESLEY, third Earl of Southampton, was born October 6, 1573, and succeeded to the title of his father in 1581. He graduated from Cambridge with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He was a friend and patron of Shakespeare, who dedicated to him his *Venus and Adonis* and the *Rape of Lucrece*. In 1601 he was tried and found guilty for the part he had played in the Essex Rebellion, but his sentence was stayed, and, after the death of Queen Elizabeth, he was released from the Tower. In 1602 he became interested in the establishment of a colony in Virginia, and from that time till his death he was a patron of many expeditions for discovery and colonization. He was one of His Majesty's Council for Virginia under the charter of 1609, and in June, 1620, was unanimously chosen treasurer of the Virginia Company, in which office he continued until the dissolution of the charter in 1624. In the same year he died. He was a man of acquired talents and polite accomplishments, although of no very great strength of mind and character. He was the nominal head of the Liberal faction of the Company, of which Edwin Sandys was the real leader.



Henry Crivethesley
(Third Earl of Southampton)
The painting by Michael Janyson, 1600-1610

SIR EDWIN SANDYS, born in 1561, was educated at Oxford, receiving the Bachelor of Arts degree from Corpus Christi College in 1579. Going to Scotland after extended travels on the continent, he entered the service of King James of Scotland, and came with him to London, when he was made King of England in 1603. He was for seven years a member of Parliament for Stockbridge. In 1607 he became a member of the Council for Virginia, and continued in 1609 as a member of the Council for the Company. During the illness of Sir Thomas Smythe, Sir Edwin acted as his assistant in the management of the affairs of the Virginia Company, and in 1619 he succeeded Smythe as the treasurer of the Company. He had himself drafted the Virginia charters of 1609 and 1612, and when, after a stormy election, he was chosen member of Parliament for Sandwich, he notified the Company that he was about to prepare a new charter for them. During the recess of Parliament of 1621 and 1622, he was committed to jail, much to the indignation of many of the members of the House of Commons. It does not appear exactly what his offense may have been, but presumably it was because of his activity in the affairs of the Virginia Company and his opposition to the crown. In all controversies within the Virginia Company, he and the Earl of Southampton were usually the leaders who advocated a liberal policy toward the colony. He was a man of great eloquence, and the Smythe faction twitted him and Ferrar for being men of more discourse than reason. The merchant element of the Company were able to convince King James, however, of their sincerity and of their business ability. They denied many of the glowing pictures about Virginia which the Sandys element tried to produce. In the Parliament of 1621-'22, Sir Edwin was the leader of a great movement against the monopolistic corporations which had had their beginning in 1604. Sandys was a member of Parliament throughout the period of struggle within the Virginia Company and even for a few years afterward. He died in 1629.



Sir Edwin Sandys.

WILLIAM CAVENDISH, first Earl of Devonshire, the second son of Sir William Cavendish, was born about 1550. His mother was a woman prominent in the history of England, of feminine beauty and masculine intellect. He became a member of Parliament for Newport in 1588 and sheriff of Derbyshire in 1594. He became interested in the establishment of a colony in Virginia and was prominent in the movement by which the Bermudas were incorporated in the territory of Virginia in 1612. In 1618 he was created Earl of Devonshire. He was prominent on the side of the Sandys faction in the struggle within the London Company in 1623. March 3, 1626, he died, and was buried at Endsore near Chatsworth.



William Cavendish
(1st Earl of Devonshire)

NICHOLAS FERRAR, the Elder, born in 1546, became one of those merchant adventurers who trafficked on a large scale between England and the East and West Indies. On his death in 1620, he bequeathed £300 for the establishment of a college in Virginia "to be paid when there shall be ten of the Infidels children placed in it, and in the mean time 24 pounds by the yeare to be dispersed unto three discrete and godly men in the Colonie, which shall honestly bring up three of the Infidels children in Christian Religion, and some good course to live by." He was allied with the Liberal faction of the London Company.



Nicholas Ferrar (the Elder)
from the painting by Cornelius Jansen

NICHOLAS FERRAR, the Younger, born in 1593, was the son of Nicholas, the Elder. A precocious child, he graduated from Cambridge with the degree of Master of Arts at the age of twenty. After traveling abroad, he returned to England and became a member of the Council for the Virginia Company in 1619. From 1622 to the time of the dissolution of the Company, he was its deputy treasurer, and it was during this period that he performed the work for which he is chiefly remembered. Probably he realized the imminent danger which threatened the Company. At any rate he caused to be made accurate copies of the Virginia records. These copies passed into the hands of the Earl of Southampton, and after the death of the third and fourth Earls, these priceless manuscripts were bought by William Byrd, the first of the name in Virginia. From the Byrd family, they passed to William Stith, President of William and Mary College. They next found their way to the library of Peyton Randolph, and after his death they were secured by Thomas Jefferson. When the Library of Congress bought from Mr. Jefferson his library, these manuscripts were included in the purchase. After the dissolution of the Virginia Company, Nicholas Ferrar became a distinguished member of the House of Commons. Later in life he retired to Huntingdonshire, where he established a peculiar monastic retreat. In the retirement of this cloister, Ferrar spent the closing days of his life.



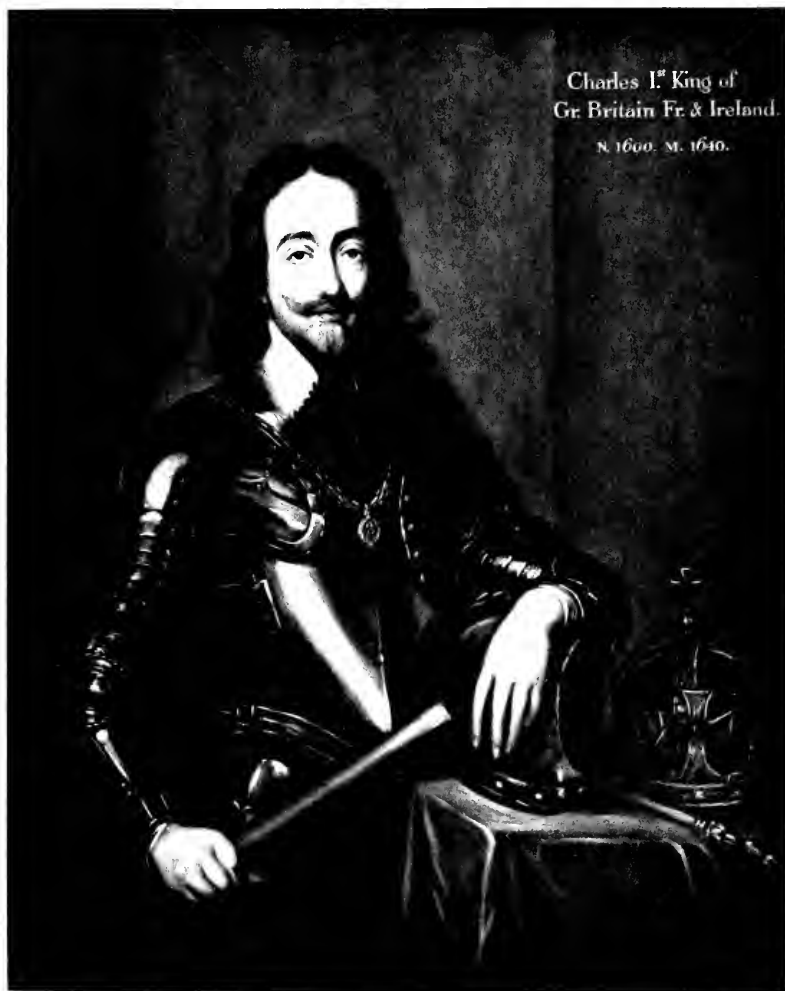
Nicholas Ferrar (the younger).

EDWARD SACKVILLE, 4th Earl of Dorset, was born in 1590 and received his education at Oxford. In 1620 he went to the continent in command of the troops sent to assist the Elector Palatine. He was prominent in the official life of England during his time, serving as a member of Parliament, as an ambassador to France, and as a member of the Privy Council. He succeeded to the title of the Earl of Dorset on the death of his brother in 1624. During the struggles which arose in the Virginia Company between 1622 and 1624, he took sides with the Southampton faction. In the years that followed the dissolution of the Virginia Company, he strove manfully along with George Sandys to secure the reestablishment of the Company. Four times did he make special appeals to King Charles for this purpose, but the opposition of the planters themselves defeated all his efforts. His last attempt was made in 1642. Ten years later he died.



*Edward Sackville
Fourth Earl of Dorset
after the painting by Van Dyck*

CHARLES I, the second son of James I, was born November 19, 1600, and ascended the throne on the death of his father twenty-five years later. He was thoroughly imbued with the notion which his father had held, that a king ruled by divine right. He pushed his royal prerogative to the point of a conflict with Parliament, which resulted in a civil war and the loss of his own head in 1649. His name survives at several geographical points in America. Cape Charles, Charles City (now City Point) and Charles City County in Virginia, and the Charles River in Massachusetts were all named in his honor. To him Virginia owes the continuation of representative government after the dissolution of the London Company.



Charles I.st King of
Gr. Britain Fr. & Ireland.

N. 1600. M. 1640.

*King Charles I.
after the painting by Van Dyck*

GEORGE SANDYS, brother of Sir Edwin Sandys, was born in 1577. He was educated at Oxford University and traveled extensively through Europe, Asia and Africa. He was a gentleman of fine accomplishments and some literary attainments. He joined the Virginia Company, and in 1621, having been chosen treasurer of the colony, he went over to Virginia, where he remained at least until 1628. There he translated fifteen books of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. After the dissolution of the Virginia Company, he was appointed secretary of the Royal Commission for the government of Virginia. After his return from Virginia, he became a gentleman of the King's Privy Chamber. When, in 1638, an attempt was made to reestablish the London Company, he was chosen the agent for the Virginia Assembly to oppose the movement in London. Unfortunately, he misunderstood his instructions and submitted a petition from the colonists in favor of a rechartering of the Company. The Assembly, however, hastened to refute the petition and the King assured them that the Company would not be reincorporated. Sandys died in 1644, at Bexley Abbey in Kent, the seat of his niece, the widow of Governor Wyatt of Virginia.



George Sandys.
from the painting by Cornelius Janssen

GEORGE CALVERT was born about 1580 in Yorkshire. After receiving his A.B. at Oxford, 1597, he entered public life under the patronage of Sir Robert Cecil. He held many prominent offices, among them secretary of the Privy Council and Secretary of State. He was deeply interested in England's colonial policy, was a stockholder in the East India Company, the London Company and the New England Company. As early as 1621, he sent settlers to plant a colony in Newfoundland. On the dissolution of the London Company, he was appointed a member of the commission to wind up the affairs of the Company, and later he was made a member of the committee of the King's Council for plantation affairs. In 1625, he was created Lord Baltimore. He was a warm friend and adviser on colonial matters of both James I and Charles I, and by the latter was granted a large section out of Virginia north of the Potomac for a settlement. He died in 1632, before his plans could be put into operation. His rights were transmitted to his son, under whose direction Maryland was first settled.



George Calvert
(First Lord Baltimore)
after the painting by Wylens

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 444 037 7